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**Europäisches  
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Zweigstelle  
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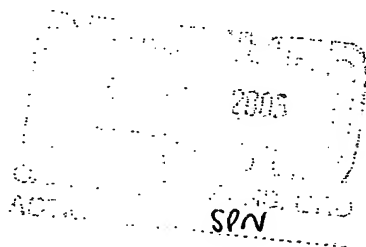
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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

ETHICON, INC.

## COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

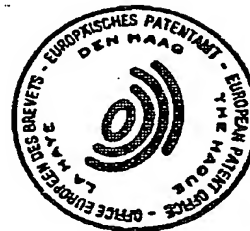
☒ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: NONE

## REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
✓ Y	EP 0 714 666 A (ETHICON INC) ✓ 5 June 1996 (1996-06-05) *cf. abstract, page 6, lines 5-21, examples 2-4 on page 7* ---	1-16	A61L27/18 A61L27/56 C08L67/04
✓ Y	US 5 677 355 A (SHALABY SHALABY W ET AL) 14 October 1997 (1997-10-14) *cf. col. 3, lines 35-51, col. 5, lines 8-25, col. 10, example 9* ✓	1-16	
✓ Y	WO 01 02033 A (ETHICON INC) ✓ 11 January 2001 (2001-01-11) *cf. abstract, page 4, 2nd and 3rd paras., page 10, lines 12-24, page 15, lines 6-11, example 1 on pages 33/34, example 4 on pages 37/38* ---	1-16	
✓ Y	US 5 468 253 A (BEZWADA RAO S ET AL) 21 November 1995 (1995-11-21) *cf. abstract, col. 4, line 44 bridging with col. 5, line 21* ✓	1-16	
✓ Y	I.K. KWON ET AL.: "Fibroblast culture on surface-modified poly(glycolide-co-epsilon-caprolactone) scaffold for soft tissue regeneration" J. BIOMATER. SCI. POLYMER EDN., vol. 12, no. 10, 2001, pages 1147-1160, XP009007857 ✓ *cf. abstract* -----	1-16	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 21 March 2003	Examiner Stoltner, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document		T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons ----- &: member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 02 25 8231

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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21-03-2003

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